

1 INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND SERVER, AND INFORMATION
2 PROCESSING UNIT AND PROGRAM

3 **ABSTRACT**

4 Information distribution methods, systems and apparatus are
5 provided in which, rather than specifying the addresses of
6 recipients of a content, a combination of attributes is
7 specified as criteria so that only those recipients that
8 meet the criteria can receive the content. An example
9 embodiment, provides an attribute key management server for
10 managing secret keys and public keys for given attribute
11 values, user terminals for accessing the attribute key
12 management server to obtain attribute secret keys
13 corresponding to their attributes generated based on secret
14 keys, and a provider terminal for generating an encrypted
15 content that can be decrypted by user terminals that has
16 the attribute secret keys corresponding to given attributes.
17 The provider terminal distributes the encrypted content and
18 the user terminals decrypt the encrypted content that can be
19 decrypted by using their attribute secret keys.

20 [Selected Drawing] Figure 1